

House File 2357 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2357
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 610)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to turtle harvesting in the state and including
- 2 effective date provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.67, Code 2016, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **481A.67 Seasons and limits — turtle harvesting restrictions.**

4 1. It is unlawful for a person, except as otherwise
5 expressly provided, to take, capture, or kill fish, frogs,
6 or turtles except during the open season established by the
7 commission. It is unlawful during open season to take in any
8 one day an amount in excess of the daily catch limit designated
9 for each variety or each locality, or have in possession any
10 variety of fish, frog, or turtle in excess of the possession
11 limit, or have in possession any frog, fish, or turtle at any
12 time under the minimum length or weight. The open season,
13 possession limit, daily catch limit, and the minimum length
14 or weight for each variety of fish, frog, or turtle shall be
15 established by rule of the department or commission under the
16 authority of sections 456A.24, 481A.38, 481A.39, and 482.1.

17 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
18 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
19 chapter 17A establishing seasons and daily catch limits that
20 restrict the noncommercial harvest of turtles in any waters of
21 the state pursuant to section 483A.28.

22 3. a. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
23 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
24 chapter 17A establishing seasons and daily catch limits that
25 restrict the commercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the
26 state.

27 b. On or before January 15, 2018, the commission shall
28 conduct a review of the status of the turtle population in the
29 state by region, in cooperation with appropriate organizations
30 and in accordance with sound fish and wildlife management
31 principles, and shall report its recommendations to the
32 general assembly on whether restrictions on noncommercial and
33 commercial turtle harvesting in the state should be revised.
34 This paragraph is repealed effective July 1, 2018.

35 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of

1 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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EXPLANATION

3 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
4 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5 This bill relates to the commercial and noncommercial
6 harvest of turtles in the waters of the state. The bill
7 requires the natural resource commission to adopt rules
8 establishing seasons that restrict the noncommercial harvest of
9 turtles pursuant to a sport fishing license.

10 The bill also requires the natural resource commission to
11 adopt rules that restrict the commercial harvest of turtles in
12 any waters of the state. The bill provides that on or before
13 January 15, 2018, the commission shall conduct a review of
14 the status of the turtle population in the state by region in
15 cooperation with appropriate organizations and in accordance
16 with sound fish and wildlife management principles and report
17 its recommendations to the general assembly, on whether
18 restrictions on noncommercial and commercial turtle harvesting
19 should be revised.

20 The bill takes effect upon enactment.